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1. In the past, whenever an area was occupied by CCP forces, the Chinese Communist policy was to execute all land owners and wealthy merchants and confiscate the land and property. This policy of execution and confiscation has been adhered to by the Chinese Communist Army for several years but it was found that such oppression did nothing to gain the local confidence and did, in fact, in several instances, give rise to civil disturbances and banditry. The policy was therefore changed by an order from MAO Tse-tung.
2. Now only the surplus lands and surplus homes of land owners and merchants are confiscated and then distributed to the tenants. However, the decision of what is surplus is dependent upon the ruling of the "Tenants Assembly" which is similar to a People's Court. The primary factor influencing the "Tenants Assembly" ruling is the evidence given in court regarding past land owner-tenant relationships. Under the present "Tenants Assembly" rulings the only individuals punishable by law and subject to land confiscation are those persons who were policemen, secret agents and officials of the Puppet Manchukuo regime. Generally the sentence passed by the Assembly in such cases is confiscation of property and penal servitude.
3. The CCP policies regarding the confiscation of agricultural products has also changed. Now in the areas around Ssapingchieh, the CCP authorities are distributing kaoliang and bean cakes because of the past hard winter. The distribution is through the village heads and is done with no cost to the recipient. The bean cakes are distributed for personal use and as fodder for animals. The kaoliang distributed is for seed and must be planted within 8 days after receipt. Farmers are given two "sho" (about 3.18 pints) of kaoliang for one "se" (about 119 square yards of land. At the time source traveled through the land, about one half of the land was seeded and indications were that the remaining land was to be seeded soon.

The change in policies by the CCP authorities has done much to gain the people's confidence but those people who still own property are apprehensive. They do not trust the authorities completely and believe that the rulings of the "Tenants Assembly" are merely temporary measures to lull the people into cooperating with the authorities and grow more crops only to have everything confiscated in the future. At first a great many of the people were leaving for Nationalist-occupied territory but now, since the inauguration of the new policies, most of the people are remaining on their land. The general feeling is that the Communists, if they continue their present policies, are making more progress toward benefitting the people than the Nationalists ever made. One of the greatest points made by the Communists is that public peace in the Ssapingchieh area is better now than it has ever been. The people no longer fear bandit bands, even at night.

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